



THE COMMUNICATOR

Grant County Employee Newsletter

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In this quarter's issue...

Guest Columnist—Barb Thompson
Dean Health Plan news

Grant County website
Office co-pay reimbursement
Springtime—fun projects and exercise

Guest Columnist Barb Thompson, County Conservationist

"On July 31, 1940, the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District was organized. A resolution was adopted by the Grant County Board of Supervisors for its creation. The purpose of the District is to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of Grant County, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of flood-water and sediment damages, and for furthering agricultural phases of the conservation, development, utilization and control of water and thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, promote and develop recreational facilities, promote proper forestry management and utilization, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Grant County."

The above excerpt was taken from the 25th Anniversary Report of the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). While the names have changed from Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD), the goals have not. For all these years, the LWCD (formerly SWCD) staff has been working side-by-side with our federal partners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS) to provide assistance to solve soil erosion and water quality problems in this county.

We currently have a staff of six LWCD employees. Alan Neises, Randy Chambers and Lynda Schweikert are our technical staff whose main duties are

survey, design and installation of the many and varied erosion control and water quality practices. Kevin Lange is our Soil Conservationist whose main duty is developing maps and conservation plans for the various programs that require them, such as Farmland Preservation, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and sodbusting to name a few. Annette Lolwing is our Administrative Support Assistant, whose main duty is customer service and keeping the office going by fulfilling the needs of all the staff. I'm the County Conservationist and Dept. Head, whose main duty is to oversee the day-to-day activities of the staff/department and manage the various programs we administer.

Our current Land & Water Conservation Committee members are: George Booth, Don Splinter, Vince Loeffelholz, Doc Martin, Dale Hood, Bud Biefer, Steve Adrian and Marvin Kettler, who is our Farm Services Agency representative.

Our funding comes from county, state and federal monies. We use our funding for staff and support expenses, as well as cost sharing to landowners for

installing conservation and water quality practices. We work cooperatively with a number of state and federal agencies to carry out our duties.

Some of the programs we work with are county, state and federal cost sharing to landowners to install practices, county Animal Waste Storage Ordinance, federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), state Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), state Wildlife Damage Program, state Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), several state regulatory programs, annual Transect Survey, annual Tree Sale, annual information and educational programs, as well as working with various organizations on projects of mutual interest.

For further information on the LWCD activities, check out our Annual Report that was printed the end of February. By the way, some form of an Annual Report documenting the department's activities has been published every year since - you guessed it - 1940.

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT STAFF



Annette Lolwing, Alan Neises, Barb Thompson, Randy Chambers, Kevin Lange, Lynda Schweikert

New services from Dean Health Plan

If you have health insurance with Dean Health Plan, there were two new services added to your plan on 1/1/06. These new services are as follows:

Complimentary Health Program

This program includes Weight Management Programs, Acupuncture, Massage Therapy, Dean/St. Mary's Health Works, and Health Club Memberships.

Dean Health Plan will reimburse eligible members 50 percent of the first \$200 in qualified charges, with a maximum reimbursement of \$100 per member, per calendar year.

You may contact Dean Health Plan at (800)279-1301 or visit www.deancare.com to find out how you can participate in this new program.

Mail Service Pharmacy

This program allows you to pay only two co-payments for a three-month supply of maintenance medications.

The service is provided through Prescription Solutions.

Contact Prescription Solutions at (800)562-6223 or visit www.rxsolutions.com to get started. You will be asked for your prescription information and the name and phone number of your doctor.

Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045.

Visit this website!

The County has a website that you may use to access some of Grant County's employment documents. You may access these documents at www.grantcounty.org by clicking on the "Employment" link.

These are the documents you can find at the website:

- Employment Opportunities (that the public can apply for)
- Employment Application
- Employee Handbook
- Employee Union Contracts
- Office Co-Pay Reimbursement Form

You may also continue to contact the County's Personnel Department with any questions you may have. (723-2540)

Office Co-pay Reimbursement requests due on April 10th

The Personnel Office will be accepting reimbursement requests on the following dates for 2006: April 10th, July 10th, October 10th, and January 15th (of 2007).

You can contact the Personnel Office for a reimbursement form or you can find the form on the internet at www.grantcounty.org by clicking on the "employment" link.

Springtime Fun

Are you looking for something fun to do? How about planting some seeds indoors? This is a great project for kids and adults.

It's fun waiting and watching for the first bit of green growth to pop up through the dirt. That bit of green grows into a strong little plant in no time and is ready to go outside.

Kids love choosing the type of seeds to plant, decorating the pots, and then, when the plants are just right, finding the perfect location to put them outside. If they've chosen flower seeds, you might want to have them plant several seeds because you know they will want to have plenty to pick for pretty bouquets!

Planting vegetable seeds might also be a way to get picky eaters to taste a vegetable—kids think it's neat to pick and taste something they have grown in the garden.



Some fun vegetable ideas are tomatoes and cucumbers. An easy flower to grow is the Bachelor's Button.

You will want to get your seeds planted soon!

You can get planting tips and seed selection help from your local florist or greenhouse. Kids also love to pick out flowers at the local greenhouse and plant them in their own little garden area. Plus this gives them an opportunity to get their hands really dirty and maybe even touch a worm in the process!

Spring is a great time to start an exercise program!

Lots of people start outside exercise activities this time of year because there are more daylight hours, the icy patches are all dried up, and we feel more energized.

Walking and playing sports are great exercise, but if you are looking for some strength training to supplement these cardiovascular workouts, you might want to check out your area health clubs. This is a list of some of the clubs in our area:

Body Shop—Lancaster 723-7709
Curve's—Lancaster 723-6880
Curve's—Platteville 348-6906
Fennimore Fitness & Tanning—822-4066
Boscobel Health & Fitness—375-5425

Some clubs offer free trial periods to help you decide if there programs are right for you.

Good luck finding an exercise program that is just right for you! Enjoy the Spring weather!